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IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

October Term, 1982

No._____

JOHN HENRY BUTERA, Petitioner,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Respondent.

PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

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JOHN HENRY BUTERA

November 24, 1983

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November 24, 1983

QUESTION PRESENTED

1. Whether state law or federal law determines the admissibility in federal court of electronic surveillance evidence gathered by a state police officer.

PARTIES

The parties to the proceedings in the court whose judgment is sought to be reviewed are as follows:

JOHN H. BUTERA
ROBERT A. DeNOMA
UNITED STATES JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

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PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE
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The Petitioner, JOHN HENRY BUTERA, respectfully prays that a writ of certiorari issue to review the judgment and opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit entered in this case on June

10, 1982.

OPINION BELOW

The opinion of the Court of Appeals, reported at 677 F.2d 1376 (11th Cir. 1982), appears in the appendix hereto. No opinion was rendered by the District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

JURISDICTION

The judgment of the Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit was entered on June 10, 1982. A timely petition for rehearing was denied on September 27, 1982, and this Petition for Certiorari was filed within sixty (60) days of that date as required by Rule 20 of the Revised Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States. This Court's jurisdiction is invoked under 28 U.S.C. §1254(1).

STATEMENT OF CASE

The instant petition arises from JOHN H. BUTERA's convictions for distribution and

aiding and abetting in the distribution of cocaine in violation of 21 U.S.C. §941(a)(1) (1976) and 18 U.S.C. §2 (1976). This case was the result of a joint state/federal investigation in Orlando, Florida. The principal investigating agent was Michael Morris, a member of the Orlando Police Department coordinating with a United States Drug Enforcement Administration task force.

At BUTERA's trial, the Government introduced three incriminating tape recordings of a conversation involving BUTERA, a co-defendant, and Agent Morris, which had occurred in BUTERA's residence while the three men were planning a cocaine deal. The conversation was recorded by means of a "body-bug" worn by Agent Morris. No warrant was applied for or issued to authorize such electronic surveillance, as is required by Florida law.

At his trial in the Middle District of

Florida, and again on appeal to the Eleventh Circuit, BUTERA claimed that it had been error to admit into evidence the surveillance recordings made of Agent Morris' body-bug transmissions. These recordings clearly would be inadmissible under Florida law, and according to Second Circuit precedent, state law controls the admissibility in federal court of electronic surveillance evidence gathered by a state agent. United States v. Manfredi, 488 F.2d 588 (2d Cir. 1973). Both the trial court and the Eleventh Circuit, however, rejected BUTERA's contention, relying on the former Fifth Circuit precedent of United States v. Nelligan, 573 F.2d 251 (5th Cir. 1978). According to Nelligan, only federal law is relevant to determine the admissibility of evidence in federal court.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

I. The Decision Below Conflicts With the Decisions of Other Courts of Appeals as to the Applicability of State Law to Determine the Admissibility in Federal Court of Electronic Surveillance Evidence Gathered by State Agents.

The Eleventh Circuit ruling that the admissibility of electronic surveillance recordings in a federal prosecution is governed exclusively by federal law breaks with Second Circuit precedent. Beginning with United States v. Manfredi, 488 F.2d 588 (2d Cir. 1973), the Second Circuit consistently has looked to state law to determine the admissibility in federal court of electronic surveillance evidence gathered by a state agent. The Eleventh Circuit, following the former Fifth Circuit precedent of United States v. Nelligan, 573 F.2d 251 (5th Cir. 1978), has rejected the notion of applying state law to determine the admissibility of evidence in a feder-

al criminal proceeding. Though the Eleventh Circuit, following the former Fifth Circuit's cue, attempts to distinguish the Second Circuit's Manfredi line of cases, it is clear that the law of the Second Circuit is irreconcilable with that of the Fifth and (now) Eleventh Circuit.

In Manfredi, supra, the Second Circuit held that the facial validity of an electronic eavesdropping warrant issued to a state agent must be "determined by reference to state law." Id. at 598. Not limiting the applicability of state law to matters concerning the form of state warrants, Manfredi also held that state "minimization" standards determine the admissibility in federal court of electronic eavesdropping procedures used by state agents. The Manfredi doctrine was followed in United States v. Rizzo, 491 F.2d 215 (2d Cir.), cert. denied, 417 U.S. 944 (1974),

where the Second Circuit reiterated that the admissibility in federal court of electronic surveillance evidence gathered by state agents is determined by state law.

In United States v. Marion, 535 F.2d 697 (2d Cir. 1976), the Second Circuit limited the Manfredi doctrine to instances where state law imposed "more exacting" standards than "those of the federal statute." Id. at 702. According to Marion, federal law provides minimum standards for the interception of communications subject to "more exacting" state procedures applicable to state agents. Federal courts, however, are not always bound to apply more stringent state statutory standards for the admissibility of intercepted communications. As the Second Circuit ruled in United States v. Sotomayor, 592 F.2d 1219 (2d Cir. 1979), a federal court must "apply only those more stringent state statutory

requirements or standards that are designed to protect an individual's right to privacy, as distinguished from procedural rules that are essentially evidentiary in character." Id. at 1225.

The Eleventh Circuit in this case refused to apply Second Circuit precedent and adopted the former Fifth Circuit rule that only federal law controls the admissibility of evidence in a federal court. The law of the Eleventh Circuit is now in direct conflict with Second Circuit law. Had Second Circuit law been applied to this case, the recordings made of Agent Morris' body-bug transmissions would have been inadmissible due to the agent's failure to obtain a warrant as re-

quired by Florida law.[1] Under the precedent followed by the Eleventh Circuit, however, the recordings in question are admissible because federal law imposes no warrant requirement where one of the parties to a communication consents to the surveillance.

II. The Decision Below Raises Significant and Recurring Problems Concerning the Admissibility in Federal Court of Evidence Seized in Violation of State Law.

In the contemporary age of joint state/federal investigations, it is crucial for this Court to articulate the precise role of state law in determining the admissibility of electronic surveillance recordings in fed-

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[1] The Florida Constitution clearly requires a warrant for a state agent to intercept communications occurring in an individual's home, even if one of the participants to the communication consents to the surveillance. State v. Sarmiento, 397 So.2d 643 (Fla. 1981) (interpreting Article I, Section 12 of the Florida Constitution).

eral court. In Oregon v. Hass, 420 U.S. 714 (1975), this Court held that states were free to impose greater restrictions on police activity than those necessary under federal constitutional standards. If the Hass principle is to remain viable, some mechanism for excluding from federal court evidence seized in violation of state law must be implemented. The case law of the Second Circuit suggests an excellent mechanism for enforcing state restrictions on police surveillance and preventing a recurrence of the "silver platter" doctrine and law enforcement forum shopping.

The precedent of the former Fifth Circuit, adopted by the Eleventh Circuit in the opinion below, eviscerates the protection of state law by providing a federal forum which admits evidence seized in violation of state law. Though, under Hass, a state is free to provide a greater degree of protection from

governmental intrusion than does the federal constitution, the opinion below suggests a ready mechanism for circumventing state protection. State agents who gather evidence in violation of an individual's rights under the state constitution may simply turn the evidence over to federal authorities for federal prosecution.

Admittedly, few actual situations will track the above scenario. Most federal criminal cases involving issues of state law have arisen from joint investigations by state and federal agents. In such instances, neither the federal nor state prosecuting authorities are normally committed to prosecuting the investigations' targets prior to the conclusion of the investigations. The opinion below clearly would allow wholesale forum shopping by prosecuting authorities in such situations. Federal courts, however, should not be allowed

to become the forums of last resort to salvage the sloppy and illegal surveillance tactics of state agents.

Underlying the Eleventh Circuit's ruling is the concern that federal prosecutions might be hampered by unduly restrictive state laws. The Second Circuit precedent, however, refers a federal court to state law only when surveillance evidence is gathered by state agents. This precedent leaves the federal government free to pursue its own investigations with federal agents bound only by federal law. When the federal government, for whatever reason, attempts to further an investigation by using state agents, it is unreasonable to maintain that these state agents, by virtue of temporary association with federal agents, should be freed from the restric-

tions imposed upon their tactics by state law.[2] The more reasoned approach, as the Second Circuit has noted, is to put federal investigative bodies on notice that state agents and the fruits of their investigations are bound by state law.

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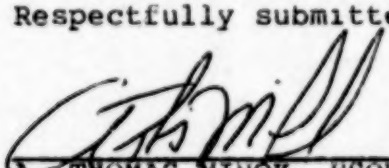
[2] The Eleventh Circuit in the opinion below noted that Agent Morris, though a member of the Orlando Police Department, had been "deputized" and received "part" of his pay from the federal government. These sketchy facts, however, are insufficient to make Agent Morris' investigation an exclusively federal investigation. Specifically, the following questions should be answered: (1) What percentage of Agent Morris' compensation was paid by federal authorities? (2) Had the federal prosecuting authority agreed to prosecute BUTERA prior to the illegal surveillance conducted by Agent Morris? (3) Were other state agents involved? (4) Were state resources involved? (5) Did forum shopping play a role in the decision to initiate a federal prosecution? (6) Why did the federal Government decide to use a state agent in this investigation? The answers to these questions currently are unknown because under the former Fifth Circuit precedent followed by the trial court, the answers were irrelevant.

C O N C L U S I O N

For these reasons, a writ of certiorari should issue to review the judgment and opinion of the Eleventh Circuit.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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APPENDIX I

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

NO. 81-5203

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

vs.

JOHN HENRY BUTERA
and
ROBERT ANDREW DeNOMA,

Defendants-Appellants.

Appeal from the United States
District Court
for the Middle District of Florida

June 10, 1982

Before INGRAHAM *, HATCHETT and ANDERSON, Circuit Judges.

INGRAHAM, Circuit Judge:

Appellants John Henry Butera and Robert Andrew DeNoma appeal from their convictions for distribution and aiding and abetting the distribution of cocaine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) (1976) and 18 U.S.C. § 2 (1976). Butera was charged with distribution in all three counts of the indictment, while DeNoma was charged with aiding and abetting such distribution in only two of the counts: the jury returned guilty verdicts against each appellant on all counts in which they were named. Butera raises the following issues: whether the fruits of electronic surveillance allegedly conducted in violation of state law should have been suppressed; whether the district court improperly exempted a government witness from sequestration and allowed the witness to take the stand on four separate occasions; whether comments by the district court deprived appellant of a fair trial; whether comments by the prosecutor in closing argument deprived appellant of a fair trial; and whether voir dire was adequate with respect to a particular panel member. DeNoma contends he was improperly joined with Butera in the three count indictment and that severance should have been granted under Rule 14 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and also that the evidence was insufficient to support his conviction on Count 1. As to the issues raised by Butera and DeNoma's arguments concerning joinder and severance, we find no reversible error and, accordingly, we affirm. We find the concurrent sentence doctrine is applicable to DeNoma's final argument and therefore do

not reach the merits of that claim; rather, following the procedure adopted in *United States v. Cardona*, 650 F.2d 54, 58 (5th Cir. 1981), we vacate the judgment of conviction on Count 1 as to DeNoma.

I—*Background*[1]

This case is the result of an undercover narcotics investigation in Orlando, Florida. The principal investigator was Agent Michael Morris, a local police officer on assignment to a United States Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force. On September 29, 1980, appellant Butera contacted Agent Morris on a telephone used by the DEA for undercover operations. (Butera had been given the telephone number by an individual in Alabama who was cooperating with federal authorities). Morris and Butera subsequently met to discuss the possibility of cocaine sales by Butera to Morris. During these preliminary meetings Butera assured Morris that he could procure large quantities of high purity cocaine.

In the events underlying Count 1 of the indictment, Butera and Morris met on October 2 at a restaurant in Orlando. Morris placed $1650 on the table, whereupon Butera produced an eyeglass case containing white powder. At this moment appellant DeNoma approached the table, picked up the money as Butera slid it in his direction, and left the restaurant. Morris stated that he intended to test the white powder to see if it was cocaine, but Butera indicated he should wait until his "man" was safely gone. Butera then stated that the white powder was not cocaine, showed Morris approximately $2000 in his wallet, and explained that he was being careful in case

Morris was a law enforcement officer, but that Morris could call off the deal at that point if he desired. Butera then asked the waitress to tell an individual at an adjoining table, who was and remains unidentified, to come to the table. This individual placed another eyeglass case on the table, which Butera gave to Morris. This case was subsequently determined to contain twenty eight grams of 59% pure cocaine.

Count 1 of the indictment charged Butera with distribution of cocaine on this occasion, as aided and abetted by DeNoma.

Count 2 involved a sale on October 16 that took place at a private residence on Old Cheney Highway in Orlando. Only Butera and Morris took part in this transaction, in which Butera sold Morris twenty eight grams of 87% pure cocaine for $2000.

Following additional discussions, the parties all gathered on the night of November 19 at the Old Cheney residence to plan the first of what was intended to be several large sales. At this meeting, Morris was wearing a transmitter that allowed agents outside the house to monitor and record the conversations. Butera produced a white garbage bag filled with white powder. Assisted by DeNoma, Butera weighed the bag, gave a small sample to Morris, and sealed the bag in a large brown paper bag. This white powder was subsequently determined to be nine hundred and ninety-eight grams

of 90% pure cocaine. Pursuant to the arrangements made that evening, the parties met the following afternoon. Morris and another DEA Task Force agent, Agent Fernandez, met DeNoma at a motel. DeNoma and Agent Fernandez, who was carrying $62,000 ostensibly to be used for the purchase, went to a second motel and Morris proceeded to meet Butera at the airport. Butera there handed over the package that had been prepared the night before. Both appellants were thereupon arrested.

II—*Appellant Butera*

A. Admissibility of Recorded Conversations.

At trial the government introduced three tape recordings of a conversation involving Butera, DeNoma and Agent Morris which took place in Butera's residence on the evening of November 19, 1980. As noted above, the recordings were obtained via a concealed transmitter worn by Agent Morris. No warrant was obtained in connection with this transmission and recording. Butera's pretrial motion to suppress the recordings was denied and his objection to admission at trial was also unsuccessful.

Butera concedes that the evidence was admissible as a matter of federal law, in that neither the Constitution nor the federal wiretapping statute[2] require a warrant or other safeguards before conversations are overheard or recorded, as in this case, with the consent of one of the participants in the conversation. *See United States v. Caceres*, 440 U.S. 741, 744, 750–52, 99 S.Ct. 1465, 1467, 1470–71, 59 L.Ed.2d 733 (1979); *United States v. White*, 401 U.S. 745, 752, 91 S.Ct. 1122, 1126, 28 L.Ed.2d 453 (1971); *On Lee v. United States*, 343 U.S. 747, 72 S.Ct. 967, 96 L.Ed. 1270 (1952); *United States v. Shedan*, 651 F.2d 336 (5th Cir. 1981) (citing 18 U.S.C. § 2511(2)(c)[3]); *United States v. Gorel*, 622 F.2d 100, 106 (5th Cir. 1979), *cert. denied*, 445 U.S. 943, 100 S.Ct. 1340, 63 L.Ed.2d 777 (1980); *United States v. Nelligan*, 573 F.2d 251, 254 (5th Cir. 1978). Nevertheless, Butera argues that the recordings should have been suppressed because Agent Morris and others involved in the investigation were state and local officials, and the warrantless recordings violated the Florida Constitution as interpreted by its state courts. This argument is utterly without merit.

[1, 2] As we have previously observed, "it is well settled that federal law governs the admissibility of tape recordings in federal criminal cases," and complaints that the evidence was obtained in violation of state law are of no effect. *United States v.*

Nelligan, 573 F.2d 251, 253 (5th Cir. 1978) (cites omitted); *see also United States v. Horton*, 601 F.2d 319, 323 (7th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 444 U.S. 937, 100 S.Ct. 287, 62 L.Ed.2d 197 (1979); *United States v. Testa*, 548 F.2d 847 (9th Cir. 1977); *United States v. Shaffer*, 520 F.2d 1369, 1372 (3d Cir. 1975), *cert. denied sub. nom. Vespe v. United States*, 423 U.S. 1051, 96 S.Ct. 779, 46 L.Ed.2d 640 (1976); *United States v. Neville*, 516 F.2d 1302, 1309 (8th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 423 U.S. 925, 96 S.Ct. 269, 46 L.Ed.2d 251 (1975).[4] *But cf.* Walinski & Tucker, *Expectations of Privacy: Fourth Amendment Legitimacy Through State Law*, 16 Harv.C.R.-C.L.L.Rev. 1 (1981). That Agent Morris is a member of the City of Orlando Police Department does not affect the application of federal law to this issue, *see Nelligan, supra*, 573 F.2d at 253, particularly when the record reflects that Agent Morris was on an indefinite special assignment to the DEA, was under the supervision of federal authorities at all relevant times, had been deputized as a United States Deputy Marshal and received part of his pay from the federal government. *Cf. United States v. Gray*, 626 F.2d 102, 105 (9th Cir. 1980) (state agents serving with DEA were, at time of search, acting in "federal capacity"; federal law applies). The recordings were properly admitted.

B. Witness Sequestration.

Butera contends that Agent Morris was improperly exempted from witness sequestration under Federal Rule of Evidence 615.

After the government presented Agent Morris as the principal investigating officer in the case, the district court ruled that Morris would be a designated representative for purposes of Rule 615(2) and therefore could remain in court to assist the government in the presentation of its case; however, the district court also ordered Morris not to discuss his testimony with the other witnesses. Morris took the stand on four separate occasions to describe the underlying events in the case in chronological order. The district court specifically made an observation on the record, however, that Morris had not taken full advantage of the court's ruling and had not remained in the courtroom during the testimony of other witnesses.

[3, 4] As a case agent, Morris was clearly exempted under Rule 615(2) and the district court's ruling was entirely correct. *See United States v. Alvarado*, 647 F.2d 537, 540 (5th Cir. 1981); *In re United States*, 584 F.2d 666 (5th Cir. 1978); *United States v. Auten*, 570 F.2d 1284, 1285 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 439 U.S. 899, 99 S.Ct. 264, 58 L.Ed.2d 247 (1978); S.Rep.No.93–1277, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. (1974), *reprinted in* [1974] U.S.Code Cong. & Ad.News 7051, 7073. To the extent Butera is complaining of the sequential presentation of Morris' testimony, this is a matter entrusted to the district court's discretion under Federal Rule of Evidence 611(a), and appellant has shown neither an abuse of that discretion nor any significant prejudice resulting from that procedure. By prior understanding between the court and all counsel, Agent Mor-

ris was subject to cross-examination at each appearance as to matters covered during that portion of direct examination. *See United States v. Jackson*, 549 F.2d 517, 528 (8th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 430 U.S. 985, 97 S.Ct. 1682, 52 L.Ed.2d 379 (1977).

C. Remarks by District Court.

Appellant Butera's sole theory of defense was entrapment.[5] According to appellant's theory, a suspect under investigation for firearms violations in Mobile, Alabama, offered his services to the government to uncover other firearms and narcotics dealers in exchange for leniency in his own case. The Drug Enforcement Administration provided this suspect with Agent Morris' undercover name and telephone number in Orlando, Florida, and the suspect passed along this information to Butera ostensibly with the message that "Byron," Agent Morris' undercover identity, was interested in purchasing cocaine. Appellant attempted to analogize this arrangement with, among other cases, the situation in *United States v. Twigg*, 588 F.2d 373 (3d Cir. 1978) (reversal based not on entrapment but because government involvement through informer constituted due process violation).

Although the district court expressed some doubt, outside the presence of the jury, as to the legal and evidentiary support for appellant's entrapment theory, the court allowed appellant to fully pursue this matter during the trial and did give an instruc-

tion on entrapment. Appellant nevertheless complains of "derogatory" remarks in connection with the entrapment defense, made both in the presence of the jury and outside the jury, that he contends deprived him of a fair trial. Specifically, the court observed that inquiries into the prior legal difficulties of the suspect in Alabama were "getting far afield" and that it was unclear how such matters related to the case at hand. In a related complaint, appellant contends that the court improperly prevented him from addressing some of these earlier events during his closing argument. Significantly, the court's comments were directed at both the defense and the prosecution, to the extent the government was pursuing the matter in its cross-examination, and at no time did the court prevent further examination or interrupt a line of questioning. Appellant complains that when a telephone company official was taking the stand to testify as to telephone records in his custody, the court stated, "Let's proceed. This gentleman ought to be out of here in three minutes. I don't know what more he can testify to." Appellant also claims his counsel was "unnerved" by the discussions outside the presence of the jury, in which the court expressed its doubt that entrapment had been established but nevertheless decided to submit the issue to the jury.

[5, 6] Consideration of allegations of judicial misconduct must start with the principle that a "trial judge has a duty to conduct the trial carefully, patiently, and impartially. He must be above even the appearance of being partial to the prosecution." *Herman v. United States*, 289 F.2d 362, 365 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 368 U.S. 897, 82 S.Ct. 174, 7 L.Ed.2d 93 (1961). As we have observed on many occasions, however, the trial judge is not a mere moderator or observer, but is responsible for the tone and tempo of the proceedings, may comment on the evidence and may exercise his discretion to curtail pursuit of irrelevant matters. *See United States v. Perez*, 651 F.2d 268, 271 (5th Cir. 1981); *United States v. Bartlett*, 633 F.2d 1184, 1188 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 454 U.S. 820, 102 S.Ct. 101, 70 L.Ed.2d 91 (1981); *Moore v. United States*, 598 F.2d 439, 442 (5th Cir. 1979); *United States v. Davis*, 546 F.2d 617, 622 (5th Cir. 1977).

[7] After a careful review of the entire transcript we conclude that appellant's characterization of the district court's remarks is simply not supported by the record. The record as a whole does not indicate any of the hostility or antagonism exhibited in *United States v. Candelaria-Gonzales*, 547 F.2d 291 (5th Cir. 1977), or *Bursten v. United States*, 395 F.2d 976 (5th Cir. 1968), *cert. denied*, 409 U.S. 843, 93 S.Ct. 44, 34 L.Ed.2d 83 (1972). On the contrary, the remarks by the court below were temperate and restrained, and evidently motivated by a desire to keep all counsels' attention focused on the issues in the case. The remarks did not prejudice the appellant or infringe his right to a fair trial.

D. Prosecutor's Comments.

In its final closing argument, the prosecution, addressing Butera's entrapment claim, stated:

> The evidence of predisposition is overwhelming. Mr. Butera is a man greedy for money, dealt in illicit drugs and dealt with the wrong person. He dealt with Mr. Morris. He got caught. And he's guilty. And he was not—

The ensuing objection by Butera's counsel and the district court's response were as follows:

> MR. RUSS [Counsel for Butera]: I object to that statement, Judge. I object to the Government attorney's expression of opinion on the ultimate issue of—
>
> THE COURT: Objection sustained. The counsel, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, are not permitted to express their own opinions. The opinion must be found by you as to what the facts may be.

In its charge to the jury the district court again admonished that the statements and arguments of counsel were not evidence.

[8] It is clearly improper for the prosecution to express its personal belief in the accused's guilt. *See United States v. Garza*, 608 F.2d 659 (5th Cir. 1979); *United States v. Morris*, 568 F.2d 396 (5th Cir. 1978); *United States v. Diharce-Estrada*, 526 F.2d 637, 641 (5th Cir. 1976); *McMillian v. United States*, 363 F.2d 165 (5th Cir. 1966); Model Code of Professional Responsibility DR 7-105(c)(3) & (4) (1979); ABA Standards Relating to the Prosecution Function 3-5.8(b) (1980). This kind of comment is

disapproved for several reasons; for example, the jury may be left with an impression that the prosecutor's statement is based in part on facts beyond those in evidence. *See United States v. Weinrich*, 586 F.2d 481, 497 (5th Cir. 1978), *cert. denied*, 441 U.S. 927, 99 S.Ct. 2041, 60 L.Ed.2d 402 (1979); *Gradsky v. United States*, 373 F.2d 706 (5th Cir. 1967). More importantly, it is highly improper for a prosecutor to attempt to use his personal status as the government's representative, or the authority of the government itself, as a basis for obtaining a conviction. *Garza, supra*, 608 F.2d at 663, *citing Berger v. United States*, 295 U.S. 78, 55 S.Ct. 629, 79 L.Ed. 1314 (1934).

[9] We need not speculate whether the comments in this case may be justified as proper rebuttal of the entrapment defense, or whether the prosecutor intended to make a statement urging a conclusion permissibly inferable from the evidence. *Cf. United States v. Morris*, 568 F.2d 396, 402 (5th Cir. 1978). Prosecutorial misconduct alone does not require reversal unless the misconduct deprives the defendant of a fair trial. *See Smith v. Phillips*, — U.S. —, 102 S.Ct. 940, 947, 71 L.Ed.2d 78 (1982). The relevant question is whether a prosecutor's actions "prejudicially affected substantial rights of the defendant." *United States v. Dorr*, 636 F.2d 117, 120 (5th Cir. 1981).

[10, 11] Prosecutorial misconduct can be considered harmless error where the district court gives an immediate curative instruction, and the evidence of the defendant's guilt is overwhelming. *See United States v. Mack*, 643 F.2d 1119, 1124 (5th Cir. 1981); *United States v. Booher*, 641 F.2d 218, 221 (5th Cir. 1981); *United States v. Georgalis*, 631 F.2d 1199, 1203–04 (5th Cir. 1980); *United States v. Lichenstein*, 610 F.2d 1272, 1281–82 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 447 U.S. 907, 100 S.Ct. 2991, 64 L.Ed.2d 856 (1980). Both of these elements are present in this case. Although appellant criticizes the form of the court's curative instruction, the instruction is substantially the same as those approved in *United States v. Handly*, 591 F.2d 1125 (5th Cir. 1979), and *United States v. Siegel*, 587 F.2d 721, 727 (5th Cir. 1979). We conclude that there was no undue prejudice to any substantial rights of appellant. *Cf. United States v. Roe*, 670 F.2d 956, 970–71 (11th Cir. 1982).

We emphasize that the prosecutor's comments in this case evince no willful or malicious design to unfairly prejudice the defendants. Nevertheless, we once again express our concern over the persistence of issues involving improper prosecutorial comments that are presented for review. *See United States v. Handly*, 591 F.2d 1125, 1132 (5th Cir. 1979); *United States v. Corona*, 551 F.2d 1386 (5th Cir. 1977); *United States v. Brown*, 451 F.2d 1231 (5th Cir. 1971). In a proper case reversal will certainly be mandated. *E.g., Corona, supra.* We join, however, in the sentiments of our brethren in the Second Circuit that it may be necessary to consider more direct sanctions to deter prosecutorial misconduct. *United States v. Modica*, 663 F.2d 1173, 1182–86 (2d Cir. 1981). We encourage the district courts in this circuit to remain vigilant, give appropriate curative instructions when called for, and consider more formal disciplinary action in cases of persistent or flagrant misconduct.

E. Voir Dire.

During the initial examination of the jury panel, panel member Reynolds stated that he had "had dealings" with appellant Butera's counsel. The district court then asked whether such contact would affect him in determining the guilt or innocence of the defendants, and Reynolds answered "Probably not." At the bench appellant's counsel stated he did not recognize Reynolds and would like to find out whether he had been a client, or a witness in one of the counsel's cases. The court then asked Reynolds whether he had been a client of appellant's counsel. Reynolds responded that he was not, but one of his neighbor's sons was killed by a driver who had been drinking and the driver was represented by appellant's counsel. At the close of questioning all counsel indicated they had no further questions. When Reynolds was drawn, appellant's counsel unsuccessfully moved to strike him for cause. Counsel then exercised his last peremptory challenge on Reynolds. Counsel asked for an additional peremptory challenge and this request was also denied. The juror selected in Reynold's place had demonstrated no grounds for challenge for cause in the preceding questioning.

[12] We interpret appellant's arguments on this matter to raise two separate issues. The first issue is whether the voir dire questioning was adequate. This is a matter firmly entrusted to the district court's discretion. *United States v. Brooks*, 670 F.2d 148, 152 (11th Cir. 1982), *citing United States v. Bocher*, 641 F.2d 218 (5th Cir. 1981). We perceive no abuse of that discretion. The district court questioned Reynolds twice, the second time specifically seeking the information requested by appellant's counsel. Counsel then had no further

questions, and still has not suggested, on this appeal, any additional questions which would have been helpful or necessary in order to further expose any possibility of juror prejudice.

[13, 14] The second issue is whether the challenge for cause was improperly denied, thereby unfairly requiring appellant's counsel to exercise his last peremptory challenge.[6] Although "as a general rule it is error for a court to force a party to exhaust his peremptory challenges on persons who should be excused for cause, for this has the effect of abridging the right to exercise peremptory challenges," *United States v. Nell*, 526 F.2d 1223, 1229 (5th Cir. 1976), the decision whether to excuse for cause is committed to the discretion of the district court. *See Irvin v. Dowd*, 366 U.S. 717, 723–24, 81 S.Ct. 1639, 1642–43, 6 L.Ed.2d 751 (1961); *United States v. Salinas*, 654 F.2d 319, 328 (5th Cir. 1981). The previous contact with appellant's counsel revealed by Reynolds in this case does not automatically disqualify him or suggest implied or presumed bias. *See United States v. Nadaline*, 471 F.2d 340 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 411 U.S. 951, 93 S.Ct. 1924, 36 L.Ed.2d 414 (1973); *Lane v. United States*, 321 F.2d 573 (5th Cir. 1963), *cert. denied*, 377 U.S. 936, 84 S.Ct. 1340, 12 L.Ed.2d 299 (1964); *Roberson v. United States*, 249 F.2d 737 (5th Cir. 1957), *cert. denied*, 356 U.S. 919, 78 S.Ct. 704, 2 L.Ed.2d 715 (1958). Appellant provides no basis, and we find none, for concluding that the district court abused its discretion in denying the challenge for cause. *Cf. Copeland v. Gulf Oil Corp.*, 672 F.2d 867 (11th Cir. 1982). Appellant was accordingly not unfairly forced to use his last peremptory challenge. *Cf. United States v. Garza*, 574 F.2d 298, 303 (5th Cir. 1978).

III—*Appellant DeNoma*

A. Joinder and Severance.

Appellant DeNoma contends that the indictment in this case improperly joined him with appellant Butera under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 8(b), and even if joinder was initially proper that the district court should have granted his motion for severance under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 14. As briefly described above, the indictment charged the appellants as follows: Count 1 alleged a sale of twenty-eight grams of cocaine on October 2, 1980, by Butera, aided and abetted by DeNoma; Count 2 charged Butera alone with a sale of twenty-eight grams of cocaine on October 16; Count 3 alleged a sale of nine hundred and ninety-eight grams of cocaine on November 20 by Butera, aided and abetted by DeNoma.

Where multiple defendants are involved, joinder is governed by Rule 8(b), rather than 8(a). *United States v. Marionneaux*, 514 F.2d 1244, 1248 (5th Cir. 1975), *cert. denied sub. nom. Partin v. United States*, 434 U.S. 903, 98 S.Ct. 298, 54 L.Ed.2d 189 (1977). Rule 8(b) provides:

> Two or more defendants may be charged in the same indictment or information if they are alleged to have participated in the same act or transaction or in the same series of acts or transactions constituting an offense or offenses. Such defendants may be charged in one or more counts together or separately and all of the defendants need not be charged in each count.

[15] In order to demonstrate that the defendants have engaged in the "same series of acts or transactions" the government must show that the acts alleged are "unified by some 'substantial identity of facts or participants.'" *United States v. Dennis*, 645 F.2d 517, 520 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 454 U.S. 1034, 102 S.Ct. 573, 70 L.Ed.2d 478 (1981), *citing United States v. Nettles*, 570 F.2d 547, 551 (5th Cir. 1978), and *Marionneaux, supra*, 514 F.2d at 1248–49. This requirement is designed to prevent joinder of separate and unrelated offenses in multiple defendant situations. *See United States v. Levine*, 546 F.2d 658 (5th Cir. 1977) (two entirely separate conspiracies; misjoinder); *United States v. Gentile*, 495 F.2d 626 (5th Cir. 1974) (separate and individualized drug sales; misjoinder); *United States v. Bova*, 493 F.2d 33 (5th Cir. 1974) (no indication that events are part of series; misjoinder).

[16] The offenses charged in this indictment, however, are related and the facts as alleged and proved show a substantial identity of facts and participants. The indictment itself reflects sales of increasing quantity. In its pretrial response to DeNoma's motion for severance, the government stated that the facts at trial would show a single objective, that is, a large-scale narcotics transaction, and that each individual transaction was meant to lead up to the succeeding transaction. These allegations were indeed borne out by the facts developed at trial. *See United States v. Leach*, 613 F.2d 1295, 1299 (5th Cir. 1980) (propriety of joinder determined from indictment, pretrial proceedings and record at trial). Not only did the quantity of cocaine increase in each transaction, but the quality

also increased, consistent with the expressed intent of the parties, from 59% purity in the October 2nd sale to 90% purity by the November 20th sale. It was evident from the recorded conversations between Agent Morris and the appellants, and from Morris' live testimony, that the earlier contacts were intended to be preliminary demonstrations of the willingness and ability of both parties to enter into large narcotic transactions, and that there was a clear understanding that the quantity and quality of cocaine involved would increase as a relationship of trust and familiarity developed.

In this regard, this case is strikingly similar to *United States v. Metz*, 608 F.2d 147 (5th Cir. 1979), *cert. denied*, 449 U.S. 821, 101 S.Ct. 80, 66 L.Ed.2d 24 (1980). The indictment in *Metz* alleged a conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute.[7] The court held that a preliminary sale of cocaine, a larger transaction three months later and intervening preparations including money-laundering plans demonstrated a single overall scheme, "a large scale narcotics transaction," accordingly, joinder of multiple defendants was proper even though the indictment did not charge the defendants with active participation in each phase of the conspiracy. 608 F.2d at 152–53.[8] *See also United States v. Burns*, 662 F.2d 1378, 1384 (11th Cir. 1981); *United States v. Dennis*, 645 F.2d 517, 520–21 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 454 U.S. 1034, 102 S.Ct. 573, 70 L.Ed.2d 478 (1981); *United States v. Leach*, 613 F.2d 1295, 1301–03 (5th Cir. 1980); *United States v. Zicree*, 605 F.2d 1381, 1387 (5th Cir. 1979), *cert. denied sub. nom. Kaufman v. United States*, 445 U.S. 966, 100 S.Ct. 1656, 64 L.Ed.2d 242 (1980). The government has adequately shown that the indictment in this case charges acts in the same series.

[17, 18] A motion for severance under Rule 14 is entrusted to the discretion of the district court, and a defendant must show that a denial of severance resulted in specific and compelling prejudice in order to obtain reversal. *United States v. Kabbaby*, 672 F.2d 857 (11th Cir. 1982); *United States v. Bulman*, 667 F.2d 1374, 1380 (11th Cir. 1982); *United States v. Grapp*, 653 F.2d 189, 192–93 (5th Cir. 1981). Denial of severance was not an abuse of discretion here. The trial was not so difficult or complex that the jury could not have properly differentiated the evidence as to each individual defendant. *Cf. United States v. Marszalkowski*, 669 F.2d 655, 660 (11th Cir. 1982) (cites omitted). In addition, the district court gave repeated cautionary instructions, apparently at every request of DeNoma's counsel, that evidence relating solely to Butera not be considered with regard to DeNoma. *Cf. United States v. Morrow*, 537 F.2d 120, 136 (5th Cir. 1976), *cert. denied*, 430 U.S. 956, 97 S.Ct. 1602, 51 L.Ed.2d 806 (1977). It is evident from a reading of the record that the district court adequately protected against undue prejudice from the joint trial of appellants and the motion for severance was properly denied.

B. Sufficiency of Evidence.

[19] DeNoma attacks the sufficiency of the evidence underlying his conviction on Count 1. He does not challenge, however, the conviction and sentence under Count 3. DeNoma received a sentence of seven years imprisonment, plus a $10,000 fine and a special three year parole term, on each count to run concurrently. We will follow the government's suggestion in this situation and apply the concurrent sentence doctrine rather than examine the sufficiency of evidence claim in detail. *See generally United States v. Warren*, 612 F.2d 887, 891–96 (5th Cir.) (en banc) (Roney and Hill, JJ., concurring and dissenting), *cert. denied*, 446 U.S. 956, 100 S.Ct. 2928, 64 L.Ed.2d 815 (1980).

The concurrent sentence doctrine is a "rule of judicial convenience," *Benton v. Maryland*, 395 U.S. 784, 791, 89 S.Ct. 2056, 2060, 23 L.Ed.2d 707 (1969). When concurrent sentences are imposed, this court has frequently elected not to reach the merits of a challenge to one count when the sentence and conviction under another count are valid. *See United States v. Ortiz*, 610 F.2d 280, 282 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 445 U.S. 930, 100 S.Ct. 1320, 63 L.Ed.2d 764 (1980); *United States v. Littrell*, 574 F.2d 828, 831 (5th Cir. 1978); *United States v. Ashley*, 569 F.2d 975, 984 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 439 U.S. 853, 99 S.Ct. 163, 58 L.Ed.2d 159 (1978). The principal concern limiting the use of the doctrine has been that adverse collateral consequences may flow from the challenged conviction if left unreviewed. *See, e.g., Warren, supra; United States v. Rubin*, 591 F.2d 278, 280 (5th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 444 U.S. 864, 100 S.Ct. 133, 62 L.Ed.2d 87 (1979).

In *United States v. Cardona*, 650 F.2d 54 (5th Cir. 1981), the court adopted the practice of the D.C. Circuit in *United States v. Hooper*, 432 F.2d 604 (D.C.Cir.1970), to avoid the problem of adverse collateral consequences. The *Hooper* approach is to vacate only the judgment of conviction on the challenged count, leaving intact the jury verdict itself. The *Cardona* court, quoting from *Hooper*, explained that vacating the judgment is "equivalent in practical effect to a suspension of the imposition of sentence. If it later develops that the interest of justice so requires, the sentence can be reimposed on a concurrent basis. The conviction could then be subject to appellate review." 650 F.2d at 58, *quoting* 432 F.2d at 606 n.8. This procedure is appropriate here. Accordingly, the judgment of conviction on Count 1 as to DeNoma is vacated. As in *Cardona*, if the government subsequently determines that the interests of justice require reimposition of the sentence, it may renew its response to DeNoma's challenge and the conviction in Count 1 would be open to full appellate review.

IV—*Conclusion*

Butera's convictions on Counts 1, 2 and 3 are affirmed. DeNoma's conviction on Count 3 is affirmed, and the judgment of conviction on Count 1 is vacated.

AFFIRMED IN PART; VACATED IN PART.

APPENDIX II

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

NO. 81-5203

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

vs.

JOHN HENRY BUTERA
and
ROBERT ANDREW DeNOMA,

Defendants-Appellants.

Denial of Petition for Renearing

September 27, 1982

Before INGRAHAM, HATCHETT, and ANDERSON
Circuit Judges

FOOTNOTES

A22

1. This section reviews the general transactions underlying the appeal. More specific facts will be discussed as they relate to individual issues.

2. Title III of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2510-2520 (1976).

3. 18 U.S.C. § 2511(2)(c) provides that, "It shall not be unlawful under this chapter for a person acting under color of law to intercept a wire or oral communication, where such person is a party to the communication or one of the parties to the communication has given prior consent to such interception."

4. Butera relies on *United States v. Manfredi*, 488 F.2d 588 (2d Cir. 1973), *cert. denied*, 417 U.S. 936, 94 S.Ct. 2651, 41 L.Ed.2d 240 (1974), and *United States v. Rizzo*, 491 F.2d 215 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied* 416 U.S. 990, 94 S.Ct. 2399, 40 L.Ed.2d 769 (1974), for the proposition that more restrictive state rules should be given effect in federal prosecutions. As we discussed in *Nelligan*, and the Second Circuit itself explained in *United States v. Sotomayor*, 592 F.2d 1219 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 442 U.S. 919, 99 S.Ct. 2842, 61 L.Ed.2d 286 (1979), and *United States v. Vasquez*, 605 F.2d 1269 (2d Cir.), *cert. denied*, 444 U.S. 981, 100 S.Ct. 484, 62 L.Ed.2d 408 (1979), the *Manfredi* case and its progeny relate only to evidence obtained by a state officer acting under a state court order issued pursuant to a state statute. *See* 573 F.2d at 254; 592 F.2d at 1225. Such a setting is envisioned in Section 2516(2) of Title III, authorizing state prosecutors to seek court-approved wiretaps. This is plainly not the factual situation before us; § 2516(2) and *Manfredi* are inapplicable to this case.

5. No issue has been raised on appeal as to the theory of this defense itself, or as to any instruction given or denied concerning entrapment. We, of course, do not mean to suggest any opinion on the merits of such a defense in this case.

6. The new Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently rejected a similar argument in *United States v. Dozier*, 672 F.2d 531, 547–48 (5th Cir., 1982), relying in part on former Fifth Circuit precedent that binds us as well. *See Bonner v. City of Prichard*, 661 F.2d 1206, 1209–10 (11th Cir. 1981) (en banc). Although we are not bound by *Dozier* we decide this issue on the same principles stated in that case.

7. The absence of a conspiracy charge in the case before us is of no significance in the Rule 8(b) analysis.

8. Because Rule 8(b) expressly provides that each defendant need not be named in each count, the absence of DeNoma in Count 2 is immaterial.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT
FILED
SEP 27 1982
Norman E. Zoller
Clerk

No. 81-5203

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

versus

JOHN HENRY BUTERA,
ROBERT ANDREW DeNOMA,

Defendants-Appellants.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ON PETITIONS FOR REHEARING

(SEP 27 1982)

Before Ingraham*, HATCHETT, and ANDERSON, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:

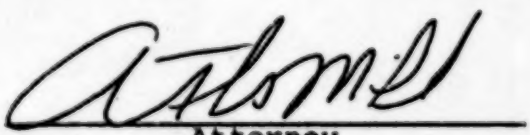
IT IS ORDERED that the petitions for rehearing filed in the above entitled and numbered cause be and the same are hereby denied.

ENTERED FOR THE COURT:

United States Circuit Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that three copies of the Petition for Writ of Certiorari were furnished by United States mail, postage prepaid, to: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Office of the Solicitor General , Room 5614, 10th & Constitution Avenues, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20530, this 24th day of December, 1982. I further certify that all parties required to be served have been served.



Attorney

Office-Supreme Court, U.S.
FILED
DEC 18 1982
ALEXANDER L. STEVAS,
CLERK

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

October Term, 1982

No. 82-879

JOHN HENRY BUTERA, Petitioner,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Respondent.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX
TO
PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

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APPENDIX I

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

NO. 81-5203

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

vs.

JOHN HENRY BUTERA
and
ROBERT ANDREW DeNOMA,

Defendants-Appellants.

Appeal from the United States
District Court
for the Middle District of Florida

June 10, 1982

Before INGRAHAM*, HATCHETT and ANDERSON, Circuit Judges.

INGRAHAM, Circuit Judge:

Appellants John Henry Butera and Robert Andrew DeNoma appeal from their convictions for distribution and aiding and abetting the distribution of cocaine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §841(a)(1) (1976) and 18 U.S.C. §2 (1976). Butera was charged with distribution in all three counts of the indictment, while DeNoma was charged with aiding and abetting such distribution in only two of the counts: the jury returned guilty verdicts against each appellant on all counts in which they were named. Butera raises the following issues: whether the fruits of electronic surveillance allegedly conducted in violation of state law should have been suppressed; whether the district court improperly exempted a government witness from sequestration and allowed the

witness to take the stand on four separate occasions; whether comments by the district court deprived appellant of a fair trial; whether comments by the prosecutor in closing argument deprived appellant of a fair trial; and whether voir dire was adequate with respect to a particular panel member. DeNoma contends he was improperly joined with Butera in the three count indictment and that severance should have been granted under Rule 14 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and also that the evidence was insufficient to support his conviction on Count 1. As to the issues raised by Butera and DeNoma's arguments concerning joinder and severance, we find no reversible error and, accordingly, we affirm. We find the concurrent sentence doctrine is applicable to DeNoma's final argument and therefore do not reach the merits of that claim; rather, following the procedure adopted

in United States v. Cardona, 650 F.2d 54, 58 (5th Cir. 1981), we vacate the judgment of conviction on Count 1 as to DeNoma.

I--Background[1]

This case is the result of an undercover narcotics investigation in Orlando, Florida. The principal investigator was Agent Michael Morris, a local police officer on assignment to a United States Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force. On September 29, 1980, appellant Butera contacted Agent Morris on a telephone used by the DEA for undercover operations. (Butera had been given the telephone number by an individual in Alabama who was cooperating with federal authorities). Morris and Butera subsequently met to discuss

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[1] This section reviews the general transactions underlying the appeal. More specific facts will be discussed as they relate to individual issues.

the possibility of cocaine sales by Butera to Morris. During these preliminary meetings Butera assured Morris that he could procure large quantities of high purity cocaine.

In the events underlying Count 1 of the indictment, Butera and Morris met on October 2 at a restaurant in Orlando. Morris placed $1650 on the table, whereupon Butera produced an eyeglass case containing white powder. At this moment appellant DeNoma approached the table, picked up the money as Butera slid it in his direction, and left the restaurant. Morris stated that he intended to test the white powder to see if it was cocaine, but Butera indicated he should wait until his "man" was safely gone. Butera then stated that the white powder was not cocaine, showed Morris approximately $2000 in his wallet, and explained that he was being careful in case Morris was a law enforcement officer,

but that Morris could call off the deal at that point if he desired. Butera then asked the waitress to tell an individual at an adjoining table, who was and remains unidentified, to come to the table. This individual placed another eyeglass case on the table, which Butera gave to Morris. This case was subsequently determined to contain twenty eight grams of 59% pure cocaine. Count I of the indictment charged Butera with distribution of cocaine on this occasion, as aided and abetted by DeNoma.

Count 2 involved a sale on October 16 that took place at a private residence on Old Cheney Highway in Orlando. Only Butera and Morris took part in this transaction, in which Butera sold Morris twenty eight grams of 87% pure cocaine for $2000.

Following additional discussions, the parties all gathered on the night of November

19 at the Old Cheney residence to plan the first of what was intended to be several large sales. At this meeting, Morris was wearing a transmitter that allowed agents outside the house to monitor and record the conversations. Butera produced a white garbage bag filled with white powder. Assisted by DeNoma, Butera weighed the bag, gave a small sample to Morris, and sealed the bag in a large brown paper bag. This white powder was subsequently determined to be nine hundred and ninety-eight grams of 90% pure cocaine. Pursuant to the arrangements made that evening, the parties met the following afternoon. Morris and another DEA Task Force agent, Agent Fernandez, met DeNoma at a motel. DeNoma and Agent Fernandez, who was carrying $62,000 ostensibly to be used for the purchase, went to a second motel and Morris proceeded to meet Butera at the airport. Butera there handed over the

package that had been prepared the night before. Both appellants were thereupon arrested.

II--Appellant Butera

A. Admissibility of Recorded Conversations.

At trial the government introduced three tape recordings of a conversation involving Butera, DeNoma and Agent Morris which took place in Butera's residence on the evening of November 19, 1980. As noted above, the recordings were obtained via a concealed transmitter worn by Agent Morris. No warrant was obtained in connection with this transmission and recording. Butera's pretrial motion to suppress the recordings was denied and his objection to admission at trial was also unsuccessful.

Butera concedes that the evidence was admissible as a matter of federal law, in that

neither the Constitution nor the federal wiretapping statute[2] require a warrant or other safeguards before conversations are overheard or recorded, as in this case, with the consent of one of the participants in the conversation. See United States v. Caceres, 440 U.S. 741, 744, 750-52, 99 S.Ct. 1465, 1467, 1470-71, 59 L.Ed.2d 733 (1979); United States v. White, 401 U.S. 745, 752, 91 S.Ct. 1122, 1126, 28 L.Ed.2d 453 (1971); On Lee v. United States, 343 U.S. 747, 72 S.Ct. 967, 96 L.Ed. 1270 (1952); United States v. Shedan, 651 F.2d 336 (5th Cir. 1981) (citing 18 U.S.C.

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[2] Title III of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 18 U.S.C. §§2510-2520 (1976).

§2511(2)(c)[3]); United States v. Gorel, 622 F.2d 100, 106 (5th Cir. 1979), cert. denied, 445 U.S. 943, 100 S.Ct. 1340, 63 L.Ed.2d 777 (1980); United States v. Nelligan, 573 F.2d 251, 254 (5th Cir. 1978). Nevertheless, Butera argues that the recordings should have been suppressed because Agent Morris and others involved in the investigation were state and local officials, and the warrantless recordings violated the Florida Constitution as interpreted by its state courts. This argument is utterly without merit.

[1,2] As we have previously observed, "it is well settled that federal law governs the admissibility of tape recordings in fed-

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[3] 18 U.S.C. §2511(2)(c) provides that, "It shall not be unlawful under this chapter for a person acting under color of law to intercept a wire or oral communication, where such person is a party to the communication or one of the parties to the communication has given prior consent to such interception."

eral criminal cases," and complaints that the evidence was obtained in violation of state law are of no effect. United States v. Nelligan, 573 F.2d 251, 253 (5th Cir. 1978) (cites omitted); see also United States v. Horton, 601 F.2d 319, 323 (7th Cir.), cert. denied, 444 U.S. 937, 100 S.Ct. 287, 62 L.Ed.2d 197 (1979); United States v. Testa, 548 F.2d 847 (9th Cir. 1977); United States v. Shaffer, 520 F.2d 1369, 1372 (3d Cir. 1975), cert. denied sub. nom. Vespe v. United States, 423 U.S. 1051, 96 S.Ct. 779, 46 L.Ed.2d 640 (1976); United States v. Neville, 516 F.2d 1302, 1309 (8th Cir.), cert. denied, 423 U.S. 925, 96

S.Ct. 269, 46 L.Ed.2d 251 (1975).[4] But cf. Walinski & Tucker, Expectations of Privacy: Fourtn Amendment Legitimacy Through State Law, 16 Harv.C.R.C.L.L.Rev. 1 (1981). That Agent Morris is a member of the City of Orlando

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[4] Butera relies on United States v. Manfredi, 488 F.2d 588 (2d Cir. 1973), cert. denied, 417 U.S. 936, 94 S.Ct. 2651, 41 L.Ed.2d 240 (1974), and United States v. Rizzo, 491 F.2d 215 (2d Cir.), cert. denied, 416 U.S. 990, 94 S.Ct. 2399, 40 L.Ed.2d 769 (1974), for the proposition that more restrictive state rules should be given effect in federal prosecutions. As we discussed in Nelligan, and the Second Circuit itself explained in United States v. Sotomayor, 592 F.2d 1219 (2d Cir.), cert. denied, 442 U.S. 919, 99 S.Ct. 2842, 61 L.Ed.2d 286 (1979), and United States v. Vasquez, 605 F.2d 1269 (2d Cir.), cert. denied, 444 U.S. 981, 100 S.Ct. 484, 62 L.Ed.2d 408 (1979), the Manfredi case and its progeny relate only to evidence obtained by a state officer acting under a state court order issued pursuant to a state statute. See 573 F.2d at 254; 592 F.2d at 1225. Such a setting is envisioned in Section 2516(2) of Title III, authorizing state prosecutors to seek court-approved wiretaps. This is plainly not the factual situation before us; §2516(2) and Manfredi are inapplicable to this case.

Police Department does not affect the application of federal law to this issue, see Nelligan, supra, 573 F.2d at 253, particularly when the record reflects that Agent Morris was on an indefinite special assignment to the DEA, was under the supervision of federal authorities at all relevant times, had been deputized as a United States Deputy Marshal and received part of his pay from the federal government. Cf. United States v. Gray, 626 F.2d 102, 105 (9th Cir. 1980) (state agents serving with DEA were, at time of search, acting in "federal capacity"; federal law applies). The recordings were properly admitted.

B. Witness Sequestration.

Butera contends that Agent Morris was improperly exempted from witness sequestration under Federal Rule of Evidence 615. After the government presented Agent Morris as the principal investigating officer in the case, the

district court ruled that Morris would be a designated representative for purposes of Rule 615(2) and therefore could remain in court to assist the government in the presentation of its case; however, the district court also ordered Morris not to discuss his testimony with the other witnesses. Morris took the stand on four separate occasions to describe the underlying events in the case in chronological order. The district court specifically made an observation on the record, however, that Morris had not taken full advantage of the court's ruling and had not remained in the courtroom during the testimony of other witnesses.

[3,4] As a case agent, Morris was clearly exempted under Rule 615(2) and the district court's ruling was entirely correct. See United States v. Alvarado, 647 F.2d 537, 540 (5th Cir. 1981); In re United States, 584

F.2d 666 (5th Cir. 1978); United States v. Auten, 570 F.2d 1284, 1285 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 439 U.S. 899, 99 S.Ct. 264, 58 L.Ed.2d 247 (1978); S.Rep.No.93-1277, 93d Cong., 2d Sess. (1974), reprinted in [1974] U.S. Code Cong. & Ad.News 7051, 7073. To the extent Butera is complaining of the sequential presentation of Morris' testimony, this is a matter entrusted to the district court's discretion under Federal Rule of Evidence 611(a), and appellant has shown neither an abuse of that discretion nor any significant prejudice resulting from that procedure. By prior understanding between the court and all counsel, Agent Morris was subject to cross-examination at each appearance as to matters covered during that portion of direct examination. See United States v. Jackson, 549 F.2d 517, 528 (8th Cir.), cert. denied, 430 U.S. 985, 97 S.Ct. 1682, 52 L.Ed.2d 379 (1977).

C. Remarks by District Court.

Appellant Butera's sole theory of defense was entrapment.[5] According to appellant's theory, a suspect under investigation for firearms violations in Mobile, Alabama, offered his services to the government to uncover other firearms and narcotics dealers in exchange for leniency in his own case. The Drug Enforcement Administration provided this suspect with Agent Morris' undercover name and telephone number in Orlando, Florida, and the suspect passed along this information to Butera ostensibly with the message that "Byron," Agent Morris' undercover identity, was interested in purchasing co-

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[5] No issue has been raised on appeal as to the theory of this defense itself, or as to any instruction given or denied concerning entrapment. We, of course, do not mean to suggest any opinion on the merits of such a defense in this case.

caine. Appellant attempted to analogize this arrangement with, among other cases, the situation in United States v. Twigg, 588 F.2d 373 (3d Cir. 1978) (reversal based not on entrapment but because government involvement through informer constituted due process violation).

Although the district court expressed some doubt, outside the presence of the jury, as to the legal and evidentiary support for appellant's entrapment theory, the court allowed appellant to fully pursue this matter during the trial and did give an instruction on entrapment. Appellant nevertheless complains of "derogatory" remarks in connection with the entrapment defense, made both in the presence of the jury and outside the jury, that he contends deprived him of a fair trial. Specifically, the court observed that inquiries into the prior legal difficulties of the

suspect in Alabama were "getting far afield" and that it was unclear how such matters related to the case at hand. In a related complaint, appellant contends that the court improperly prevented him from addressing some of these earlier events during his closing argument. Significantly, the court's comments were directed at both the defense and the prosecution, to the extent the government was pursuing the matter in its cross-examination, and at no time did the court prevent further examination or interrupt a line of questioning. Appellant complains that when a telephone company official was taking the stand to testify as to telephone records in his custody, the court stated, "Let's proceed. This gentleman ought to be out of here in three minutes. I don't know what more he can testify to." Appellant also claims his counsel was "unnerved" by the discussions outside the

presence of the jury, in which the court expressed its doubt that entrapment had been established but nevertheless decided to submit the issue to the jury.

[5,6] Consideration of allegations of judicial misconduct must start with the principle that a "trial judge has a duty to conduct the trial carefully, patiently, and impartially. He must be above even the appearance of being partial to the prosecution." Herman v. United States, 289 F.2d 362, 365 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 368 U.S. 897, 82 S.Ct. 174, 7 L.Ed.2d 93 (1961). As we have observed on many occasions, however, the trial judge is not a mere moderator or observer, but is responsible for the tone and tempo of the proceedings, may comment on the evidence and may exercise his discretion to curtail pursuit of irrelevant matters. See United States v. Perez, 651 F.2d 268, 271 (5th Cir. 1981);

United States v. Bartlett, 633 F.2d 1184, 1188 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 454 U.S. 820, 102 S.Ct. 101, 70 L.Ed.2d 91 (1981); Moore v. United States, 598 F.2d 439, 442 (5th Cir. 1979); United States v. Davis, 546 F.2d 617, 622 (5th Cir. 1977).

[7] After a careful review of the entire transcript we conclude that appellant's characterization of the district court's remarks is simply not supported by the record. The record as a whole does not indicate any of the hostility or antagonism exhibited in United States v. Candelaria-Gonzales, 547 F.2d 291 (5th Cir. 1977), or Bursten v. United States, 395 F.2d 976 (5th Cir. 1968), cert. denied, 409 U.S. 843, 93 S.Ct. 44, 34 L.Ed.2d 83 (1972). On the contrary, the remarks by the court below were temperate and restrained, and evidently motivated by a desire to keep all counsels' attention focused on the issues

in the case. The remarks did not prejudice the appellant or infringe his right to a fair trial.

D. Prosecutor's Comments.

In its final closing argument, the prosecution, addressing Butera's entrapment claim, stated:

> The evidence of predisposition is overwhelming. Mr. Butera is a man greedy for money, dealt in illicit drugs and dealt with the wrong person. He dealt with Mr. Morris. He got caught. And he's guilty. And he was not--

The ensuing objection by Butera's counsel and the district court's response were as follows:

> MR. RUSS [Counsel for Butera]: I object to that statement, Judge. I object to the Government attorney's expression of opinion on the ultimate issue of --
>
> THE COURT: Objection sustained. The counsel, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, are not permitted to express their own opinions. The opinion must be found by you as to what the facts may be.

In its charge to the jury the district court again admonished that the statements and

arguments of counsel were not evidence.

[8] It is clearly improper for the prosection to express its personal belief in the accused's guilt. See United States v. Garza, 608 F.2d 659 (5th Cir. 1979); United States v. Morris, 568 F.2d 396 (5th Cir. 1978); United States v. Diharce-Estrada, 526 F.2d 637, 641 (5th Cir. 1976); McMillian v. United States, 363 F.2d 165 (5th. Cir. 1966); Model Code of Professional Responsibility DR 7-105(c)(3) & (4) (1979); ABA Standards Relating to the Prosecution Function 3-5.8(b) (1980). This kind of comment is disapproved for several reasons; for example, the jury may be left with an impression that the prosecutor's statement is based in part on facts beyond those in evidence. See United States v. Weinrich, 586 F.2d 481, 497 (5th Cir. 1978), cert. denied, 441 U.S. 927, 99 S.Ct. 2041, 60 L.Ed.2d 402 (1979); Gradsky v. United States,

373 F.2d 706 (5th Cir. 1967). More importantly, it is highly improper for a prosecutor to attempt to use his personal status as the government's representative, or the authority of the government itself, as a basis for obtaining a conviction. Garza, supra, 608 F.2d at 663, citing Berger v. United States, 295 U.S. 78, 55 S.Ct. 629, 79 L.Ed. 1314 (1934).

[9] We need not speculate whether the comments in this case may be justified as proper rebuttal of the entrapment defense, or whether the prosecutor intended to make a statement urging a conclusion permissibly inferable from the evidence. Cf. United States v. Morris, 568 F.2d 396, 402 (5th Cir. 1978). Prosecutorial misconduct alone does not require reversal unless the misconduct deprives the defendant of a fair trial. See Smith v. Phillips, ____ U.S. ____, 102 S.Ct. 940, 947, 71 L.Ed.2d 78 (1982). The relevant

question is whether a prosecutor's actions "prejudicially affected substantial rights of the defendant." United States v. Dorr, 636 F.2d 117, 120 (5th Cir. 1981).

[10, 11] Prosecutorial misconduct can be considered harmless error where the district court gives an immediate curative instruction, and the evidence of the defendant's guilt is overwhelming. See United States v. Mack, 643 F.2d 1119, 1124 (5th Cir. 1981); United States v. Booker, 641 F.2d 218, 221 (5th Cir. 1981); United States v. Georgalis, 631 F.2d 1199, 1203-04 (5th Cir. 1980); United States v. Lichenstein, 610 F.2d 1272, 1281-82 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 447 U.S. 907, 100 S.Ct. 2991, 64 L.Ed.2d 856 (1980). Both of these elements are present in this case. Although appellant criticizes the form of the court's curative instruction, the instruction is substantially the same as those approved in

United States v. Handly, 591 F.2d 1125 (5th Cir. 1979), and United States v. Siegel, 587 F.2d 721, 727 (5th Cir. 1979). We conclude that there was no undue prejudice to any substantial rights of appellant. Cf. United States v. Roe, 670 F.2d 956, 970-71 (11th Cir. 1981).

We emphasize that the prosecutor's comments in this case evince no willful or malicious design to unfairly prejudice the defendants. Nevertheless, we once again express our concern over the persistence of issues involving improper prosecutorial comments that are presented for review. See United States v. Handley, 591 F.2d 1125, 1132 (5th Cir. 1979); United States v. Corona, 551 F.2d 1386 (5th Cir. 1977); United States v. Brown, 451 F.2d 1231 (5th Cir. 1971). In a proper case reversal will certainly be mandated. E.g., Corona, supra. We join, how-

ever, in the sentiments of our brethren in the Second Circuit that it may be necessary to consider more direct sanctions to deter prosecutorial misconduct. United States v. Modica, 663 F.2d 1173, 1182-86 (2d Cir. 1981). We encourage the district courts in this circuit to remain vigilant, give appropriate curative instructions when called for, and consider more formal disciplinary action in cases of persistent or flagrant misconduct.

E. Voir Dire.

During the initial examination of the jury panel, panel member Reynolds stated that he had "had dealings" with appellant Butera's counsel. The district court then asked whether such contact would affect him in determining the guilt or innocence of the defendants, and Reynolds answered "probably not." At the bench appellant's counsel stated he did not recognize Reynolds and would like

to find out whether he had been a client, or a witness in one of the counsel's cases. The court then asked Reynolds whether he had been a client of appellant's counsel. Reynolds responded that he was not, but one of his neighbor's sons was killed by a driver who had been drinking and the driver was represented by appellant's counsel. At the close of questioning all counsel indicated they had no further questions. When Reynolds was drawn, appellant's counsel unsuccessfully moved to strike nim for cause. Counsel then exercised his last peremptory challenge on Reynolds. Counsel asked for an additional peremptory challenge and this request was also denied. The juror selected in Reynold's place had demonstrated no grounds for challenge for cause in the preceding questioning.

[12] We interpret appellant's arguments on this matter to raise two separate

issues. The first issue is whether the voir dire questioning was adequate. This is a matter firmly entrusted to the district court's discretion. United States v. Brooks, 670 F.2d 148, 152 (11th Cir. 1982), citing United States v. Booher, 641 F.2d 218 (5th Cir. 1981). We perceive no abuse of that discretion. The district court questioned Reynolds twice, the second time specifically seeking the information requested by appellant's counsel. Counsel then had no further questions, and still has not suggested, on this appeal, any additional questions which would have been helpful or necessary in order to further expose any possibility of juror prejudice.

[13, 14] The second issue is whether the challenge for cause was improperly denied, thereby unfairly requiring appellant's counsel

to exercise his last peremptory challenge.[6] Although "as a general rule it is error for a court to force a party to exhaust nis peremptory challenges on persons who should be excused for cause, for this has the effect of abridging the right to exercise peremptory challenges," United States v. Nell, 526 F.2d 1223, 1229 (5th Cir. 1976), the decision whether to excuse for cause is committed to the discretion of the district court. See Irvin v. Dowd, 366 U.S. 717, 723-24, 81 S.Ct. 1639, 1642-43, 6 L.Ed.2d 751 (1961); United States v. Salinas, 654 F.2d 319, 328 (5th Cir.

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[6] The new Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals recently rejected a similar argument in United States v. Dozier, 672 F.2d 531, 547-48 (5th Cir. 1982), relying in part on former Fiftn Circuit precedent that binds us as well. See Bonner v. City of Prichard, 661 F.2d 1206, 1209-10 (11th Cir. 1981) (en banc). Although we are not bound by Dozier we decide this issue on the same principles stated in that case.

1981). The previous contact with appellant's counsel revealed by Reynolds in this case does not automatically disqualify him or suggest implied or presumed bias. See United States v. Nadaline, 471 F.2d 340 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 411 U.S. 951, 93 S.Ct. 1924, 36 L.Ed.2d 414 (1973); Lane v. United States, 321 F.2d 573 (5th Cir. 1963), cert. denied, 377 U.S. 936, 84 S.Ct. 1340, 12 L.Ed.2d 299 (1964); Robertson v. United States, 249 F.2d 737 (5th Cir. 1957), cert. denied, 356 U.S. 919, 78 S.Ct. 704, 2 L.Ed.2d 715 (1958). Appellant provides no basis, and we find none, for concluding that the district court abused its discretion in denying the challenge for cause. Cf. Copeland v. Gulf Oil Corp., 672 F.2d 867 (11th Cir. 1982). Appellant was accordingly not unfairly forced to use his last peremptory challenge. Cf. United States v. Garza, 574 F.2d 298, 303 (5th Cir. 1978).

III--Appellant DeNoma

A. Joinder and Severance.

Appellant DeNoma contends that the indictment in this case improperly joined him with appellant Butera under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 8(b), and even if joinder was initially proper that the district court should have granted his motion for severance under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 14. As briefly described above, the indictment charged the appellants as follows: Count 1 alleged a sale of twenty-eight grams of cocaine on October 2, 1980, by Butera, aided and abetted by DeNoma; Count 2 charged Butera alone with a sale of twenty-eight grams of cocaine on October 16; Count 3 alleged a sale of nine hundred and ninety-eight grams of cocaine on November 20 by Butera, aided and abetted by DeNoma.

Where multiple defendants are in-

volved, joinder is governed by Rule 8(b), rather than 8(a). United States v. Marionneaux, 514 F.2d 1244, 1248 (5th Cir. 1975), cert. denied sub. nom. Partin v. United States, 434 U.S. 903, 98 S.Ct. 298, 54 L.Ed.2d 189 (1977). Rule 8(b) provides:

> Two or more defendants may be charged in the same indictment or information if they are alleged to have participated in the same act or transaction or in the same series of acts or transactions constituting an offense or offenses. Such defendants may be charged in one or more counts together or separately and all of the defendants need not be charged in each count.

[15] In order to demonstrate that the defendants have engaged in the "same series of acts or transactions" the government must show that the acts alleged are "unified by some 'substantial identity of facts or participants.'" United States v. Dennis, 645 F.2d 517, 520 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 454 U.S. 1034, 102 S.Ct. 573, 70 L.Ed.2d 478 (1981),

citing United States v. Nettles, 570 F.2d 547, 551 (5th Cir. 1978), and Marionneaux, supra, 514 F.2d at 1248-49). This requirement is designed to prevent joinder of separate and unrelated offenses in multiple defendant situations. See United States v. Levine, 546 F.2d 658 (5th Cir. 1977) (two entirely separate conspiracies; misjoinder); United States v. Gentile, 495 F.2d 626 (5th Cir. 1974) (separate and individualized drug sales; misjoinder); United States v. Bova, 493 F.2d 33 (5tn Cir. 1974) (no indication that events are part of series; misjoinder).

[16] The offenses charged in this indictment, however, are related and the facts as alleged and proved show a substantial identity of facts and participants. The indictment itself reflects sales of increasing quantity. In its pretrial response to DeNoma's motion for severance, the government stated

that the facts at trial would show a single objective, that is, a large-scale narcotics transaction, and that each individual transaction was meant to lead up to the succeeding transaction. These allegations were indeed borne out by the facts developed at trial. See United States v. Leach, 613 F.2d 1295, 1299 (5th Cir. 1980) (propriety of joinder determined from indictment, pretrial proceedings and record at trial). Not only did the quantity of cocaine increase in each transaction, but the quality also increased, consistent with the expressed intent of the parties, from 59% purity in the October 2nd sale to 90% purity by the November 20th sale. It was evident from the recorded conversations between Agent Morris and the appellants, and from Morris' live testimony, that the earlier contacts were intended to be preliminary demonstrations of the willingness and ability of

both parties to enter into large narcotic transactions, and that there was a clear understanding that the quantity and quality of cocaine involved would increase as a relationship of trust and familiarity developed.

In this regard, this case is strikingly similar to United States v. Metz, 608 F.2d 147 (5th Cir. 1979), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 821, 101 S.Ct. 80, 66 L.Ed.2d 24 (1980). The indictment in Metz alleged a conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute.[7] The court held that a preliminary sale of cocaine, a larger transaction three months later and intervening preparations including money-laundering plans demonstrated a single overall scheme, "a large scale narcotics

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[7] The absence of a conspiracy charge in the case before us is of no significance in the Rule 8(b) analysis.

transaction," accordingly, joinder of multiple defendants was proper even though the indictment did not charge the defendants with active participation in each phase of the conspiracy. 608 F.2d at 152-53.[8] See also United States v. Burns, 662 F.2d 1378, 1384 (11th Cir. 1981); United States v. Dennis, 645 F.2d 517, 520-21 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 454 U.S. 1034, 102 S.Ct. 573, 70 L.Ed.2d 478 (1981); United States v. Leach, 613 F.2d 1295, 1301-03 (5th Cir. 1980); United States v. Zicree, 605 F.2d 1381, 1387 (5th Cir. 1979), cert. denied sub. nom. Kaufman v. United States, 445 U.S. 966, 100 S.Ct. 1656, 64 L.Ed.2d 242 (1980). The government has adequately shown that the indictment in this case charges acts in the

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[8] Because Rule 8(b) expressly provides that each defendant need not be named in each count, the absence of DeNoma in Count 2 is immaterial.

same series.

[17, 18] A motion for severance under Rule 14 is entrusted to the discretion of the district court, and a defendant must show that a denial of severance resulted in specific and compelling prejudice in order to obtain reversal. United States v. Kabbaby, 672 F.2d 857 (11th Cir. 1982); United States v. Bulman, 667 F.2d 1374, 1380 (11th Cir. 1982); United States v. Grapp, 653 F.2d 189, 192-93 (5th Cir. 1981). Denial of severance was not an abuse of discretion here. The trial was not so difficult or complex that the jury could not have properly differentiated the evidence as to each individual defendant. Cf. United States v. Marszalkowski, 669 F.2d 655, 660 (11th Cir. 1982) (cites omitted). In addition, the district court gave repeated cautionary instructions, apparently at every request of DeNoma's counsel, that evidence

relating solely to Butera not be considered with regard to DeNoma. Cf. United States v. Morrow, 537 F.2d 120, 136 (5th Cir. 1976), cert. denied, 430 U.S. 956, 97 S.Ct. 1602, 51 L.Ed.2d 806 (1977). It is evident from a reading of the record that the district court adequately protected against undue prejudice from the joint trial of appellants and the motion for severance was properly denied.

B. Sufficiency of Evidence.

[19] DeNoma attacks the sufficiency of the evidence underlying his conviction on Count 1. He does not challenge, however, the conviction and sentence under Count 3. DeNoma received a sentence of seven years imprisonment, plus a $10,000 fine and a special three year parole term, on each count to run concurrently. We will follow the government's suggestion in this situation and apply the concurrent sentence doctrine rather than examine

the sufficiency of evidence claim in detail. See generally United States v. Warren, 612 F.2d 887, 891-96 (5th Cir.) (en banc) (Roney and Hill, JJ., concurring and dissenting), cert. denied, 446 U.S. 956, 100 S.Ct. 2928, 64 L.Ed.2d 815 (1980).

The concurrent sentence doctrine is a "rule of judicial convenience," Benton v. Maryland, 395 U.S. 784, 791, 89 S.Ct. 2056, 2060, 23 L.Ed.2d 707 (1969). When concurrent sentences are imposed, this court has frequently elected not to reach the merits of a challenge to one count when the sentence and conviction under another count are valid. See United States v. Ortiz, 610 F.2d 280, 282 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 445 U.S. 930, 100 S.Ct. 1320, 63 L.Ed.2d 764 (1980); United States v. Littrell, 574 F.2d 828, 831 (5th Cir. 1978); United States v. Ashley, 569 F.2d 975, 984 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 439 U.S. 853, 99

S.Ct. 163, 58 L.Ed.2d 159 (1978). The principal concern limiting the use of the doctrine nas been that adverse collateral consequences may flow from the challenged conviction if left unreviewed. See, e.g., Warren, supra; United States v. Rubin, 591 F.2d 278, 280 (5th Cir.), cert. denied, 444 U.S. 864, 100 S.Ct. 133, 62 L.Ed.2d 87 (1979).

In United States v. Cardona, 650 F.2d 54 (5th Cir. 1981), the court adopted the practice of the D.C. Circuit in United States v. Hooper, 432 F.2d 604 (D.C.Cir. 1970), to avoid the problem of adverse collateral consequences. The Hooper approach is to vacate only the judgment of conviction on the challenged count, leaving intact the jury verdict itself. The Cardona court, quoting from Hooper, explained that vacating the judgment is "equivalent in practical effect to a suspension of the imposition of sentence. If it

later develops that the interest of justice so requires, the sentence can be reimposed on a concurrent basis. The conviction could then be subject to appellate review." 650 F.2d at 58, quoting 432 F.2d at 606 n.8. This procedure is appropriate here. Accordingly, the judgment of conviction on Count 1 as to DeNoma is vacated. As in Cardona, if the government subsequently determines that the interests of justice require reimposition of the sentence, it may renew its response to DeNoma's challenge and the conviction in Count 1 would be open to full appellate review.

IV--Conclusion

Butera's convictions on Counts 1, 2 and 3 are affirmed. DeNoma's conviction on Count 3 is affirmed, and the judgment of conviction on Count 1 is vacated.

AFFIRMED IN PART; VACATED IN PART.

APPENDIX II

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

NO. 81-5203

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

vs.

JOHN HENRY BUTERA
and
ROBERT ANDREW DeNOMA,

Defendants-Appellants.

Denial of Petition for Rehearing

September 27, 1982

Before INGRAHAM, HATCHETT, and ANDERSON
Circuit Judges

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

NO. 81-5203

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

versus

JOHN HENRY BUTERA
and
ROBERT ANDREW DeNOMA,

Defendants-Appellants.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Middle District of Florida

ON PETITIONS FOR REHEARING

September 27, 1982

Before Ingraham*, HATCHETT, and ANDERSON,
Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:

IT IS ORDERED tnat the petitions for rehearing filed in the above entitled and numbered cause be and the same are hereby DENIED.

ENTERED FOR THE COURT:

/s/ JOSEPH W. HATCHETT
United States Circuit Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that three copies of the Supplemental Appendix to Petition for Writ of Certiorari were furnished by United States mail, postage prepaid, to: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Office of the Solicitor General , Room 5614, 10th & Constitution Avenues, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20530, this 15th day of December, 1982. I furtner certify that all parties required to be served have been served.

/s/ A. Thomas Mihok

Attorney